

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 114784

R 180750Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7620

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7212

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH IZ

SUBJ: PEKING-IRAQ

PEKING GAVE NOTABLY LOW LEVEL TREATMENT TO IRAQI NATIONAL DAY JULY 16. THE PRC MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH BOTH ATTENDED A RECEPTION GIVEN IN PEKING BY THE IRAQI EMBASSY. ON SIMILAR OCCASIONS THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, HOWEVER, CHOU EN-LAI SENT A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI ATTENDED THE IRAQI EMBASSY RECEPTIONS. AT LAST YEAR'S CELEBRATION, CHI MADE A SPEECH PRAISING THE "PROFOUND ANTI-IMPERIALIST MILITANT FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES. COOLING OF SINO-IRAQI RELATIONS WAS INDICATED RECENTLY WHEN THE CHINESE FOR THE FIRST TIME EQUATED

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THE SOVIET-IRAQ TREATY WITH THE SOVIET-INDIAN TREATY. MOREOVER,

CHINA'S NEW FOCUS ON BACKING IRAN AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET AND INDIAN INFLUENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN (HONG KONG 7034) HAS INEVITABLY STRAINED PEKING-BAGHDAD RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, IRAQ'S UNCERTAIN DOMESTIC PICTURE MAY HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRC'S DOWNPLAY OF ITS TIES TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.
DEAN

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NNN

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